

COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A multimedia system comprising:

a file storage that stores a multimedia file comprising a plurality of sequence tracks including a performance sequence track containing a sequence of performance information, a drawing sequence track containing a sequence of drawing information, and a master sequence track containing a sequence of synchronization information effective to synchronize the plurality of sequence tracks with one another, wherein the synchronization information contains control information effective to control a progression of each sequence track at a desired position along a time axis, wherein each of the sequence tracks have the same data structure constituted by a sequence of events and durations, and wherein the durations indicate time intervals between the successive events;

a sequencer that processes the multimedia file for parallel running of the sequence tracks synchronously with each other according to the synchronization information containing the control information in the form of a control event, the sequencer transmitting status information corresponding to the control event;

a program storage that stores an application program which treats and controls the multimedia file; and

an executing unit that executes the application program to enable the application program to communicate with the sequencer for effecting a control of the parallel running of the sequence tracks including a start control and a stop control of the parallel running of the sequence tracks, wherein the executing unit receives the status information from the sequencer, performs a process in

response to the received status information, and, in accordance with the results of the process performed, transmits back to the sequencer an instruction.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The multimedia system according to claim 1, wherein the multimedia file further comprises an audio track having audio sequence information.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (previously presented): The multimedia system according to claim 1, wherein the synchronization information includes control information effective to control a progression of each sequence track along a time axis.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The multimedia system according to claim 1, wherein the drawing events contained in the drawing information indicate a display object which is drawn during the running of the drawing sequence track.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The multimedia system according to claim 5, wherein each of the display event includes layout information effective to specify a position of the display object relative to a display screen in a plurality of coordinate formats according to a size of the display screen and a size of the display object.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The multimedia systems according to claim 5, wherein each display event includes a primary block containing definition information effective to define the display object, and a secondary block containing modification information effective to impart movements to the display object, the modification information being selected to impart one or more of different movements which are independent from one another and which do not interfere with one another.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A multimedia file, said multimedia file including a plurality of sequence tracks including:

a performance sequence track containing a sequence of performance information;

a drawing sequence track containing a sequence of drawing information; and

a master sequence track containing a sequence of synchronization information effective to synchronize all of the sequence tracks with one another, wherein the synchronization information contains control information effective to control a progression of each sequence track at a desired position along a time axis, said control information is in the form of a control event

wherein each of the sequence tracks have the same data structure constituted by a sequence of events and durations, wherein the durations indicate time intervals between the successive events,

wherein the multimedia file is readable by a sequencer for parallel running of the sequence tracks synchronously with each other according to the synchronization information containing the control information, said sequencer transmitting status information corresponding to the control event, and

wherein the multimedia file is usable by an application program, which is executed to communicate with the sequencer for effecting a control of the parallel running of the sequence tracks including a start control and a stop control of the parallel running of the sequence tracks, wherein the executing unit receives status information from the sequencer, performs a process in response to the received status information, and, in accordance with the results of the process performed, transmits back to the sequencer an instruction.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A method of playing a multimedia file by combination of a sequencer and an application program, the multimedia file comprising a plurality of sequence tracks including a performance sequence track containing a sequence of performance information, a drawing sequence track containing a sequence of drawing information, and a master sequence track containing a sequence of synchronization information effective to synchronize the sequence tracks with one another, wherein the synchronization information contains control information effective to control a progression of each sequence track at a desired position along a time axis, wherein each of the sequence tracks have the same data structure constituted by a sequence of events and durations, wherein the durations indicate a time interval between the successive events, the method comprising the steps of;

processing the multimedia file by the sequencer for parallel running of the sequence tracks synchronously with each other according to the synchronization information containing the control information, the control information being in the form of a control event;

using the sequencer to transmit status information corresponding to the control event; and

executing the application program to communicate with the sequencer for effecting a control of the parallel running of the sequence tracks such as a start control and a stop control of the parallel running of the sequence tracks, said step of executing including receiving the status information from the sequencer, performing a process in response to the received status information, and, in accordance with the results of the process performed, transmitting back to the sequencer an instruction.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the multimedia file further includes an audio sequence track containing a sequence of audio information.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the synchronization information includes control information for controlling a progression of each sequence track along a time axis.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the drawing events contained in the drawing information indicate a display object which is drawn during the running of the drawing sequence track.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein each of the display event includes layout information effective to specify a position of the display object relative to a display screen in a plurality of coordinate formats according to a size of the display screen and a size of the display object.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein each display event includes a primary block containing definition information effective to define the display object, and a secondary block containing modification information effective to impart movements to the display object, the modification information being selected to impart one or more of different movements which are independent from one another and which do not interfere with one another.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The multimedia system according to claim 1, wherein the executing unit effects the control of the parallel running of the sequence tracks including at least one of a pausing control, a branching control and a repetition control, the pausing control pausing the parallel running of the sequence tracks at the desired position of the time axis, the branching control branching the sequence tracks to the desired position of the time axis, the repetition control repeating a part of the sequence tracks at the desired position of the time axis.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The multimedia file according to claim 8, wherein the executed application program effects the control of the parallel running of the sequence tracks including at least one of a pausing control, a branching control and a repetition control, the pausing control pausing the parallel running of the sequence tracks at the desired position of the time axis, the branching control branching the sequence tracks to the desired position of the time axis, the repetition control repeating a part of the sequence tracks at the desired position of the time axis.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the executed application program effects the control of the parallel running of the sequence tracks including at least one of a pausing control, a branching control and a repetition control, the pausing control pausing the parallel running of the sequence tracks at the desired position of the time axis, the branching control branching the sequence tracks to the desired position of the time axis, the repetition control repeating a part of the sequence tracks at the desired position of the time axis.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein a start time of an event can be determined by accumulating the durations that indicate the time intervals between the successive events.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The multimedia file of claim 8, wherein a start time of an event can be determined by accumulating the durations that indicate the time intervals between the successive events.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of determining a start time of an event by accumulating the durations that indicate the time intervals between the successive events.